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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant again appreciates the thorough examination of the present application, as evidenced the first Official Action of this request for continued examination (RCE). Applicant also appreciates the Examiner taking the time to conduct a telephone interview with Applicant's undersigned attorney regarding the present application and first Official Action. The first Official Action rejects Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. More particularly, the Official Action rejects independent Claims 1, 8 and 15, and by dependency Claims 2-7, 8-14 and 16-21, as including two phrases the Official Action alleges are unclear. In addition, the Official Action rejects Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,991,528 to Taylor et al.

In response to the first Official Action, as explained below, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 to more clearly define the claimed invention. As also explained below, Applicant has not amended any of Claims 1-21 in light of the Taylor patent. Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention of Claims 1-21 is patentably distinct from the Taylor patent, and therefore, traverses the rejection of such claims as being anticipated by the Taylor patent. In light of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims of the present application.

I. Request for Telephone Interview

Applicants' counsel hereby requests a follow-up telephone interview after the Examiner has had an opportunity to review the remarks provided below. Such an interview would be brief and would focus only on the current rejections and cited references. Applicants' counsel, Andrew Spence, can be reached at 704-444-1411.

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II. The Claims of the Present Application are Patentable

As indicated above, the first Official Action rejects Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and also rejects Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,991,528 to Taylor et al. Each rejection will now be separately addressed.

A. Claims 1-21 Are Definite Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

In rejecting Claims 1-21, the Official Action alleges that, in Claims 1, 8 and 15, the limitation "when the at least one motion device is configured to operate on at least one object, information regarding the at least one object," is grammatically unclear. In addition, the Official Action alleges that the limitation, "the electronic simulation information is otherwise capable of being used to verify the operation of the at least one motion device produced by a set of operation information," is unclear as to what is "produced" by the set of operation information, as well as in what capacity the electronic simulation is used to enable this simulation.

Initially, Applicant notes the Examiner's proper interpretation of the electronic simulation information as being "further representative of information regarding the at least one object when the at least one motion device is configured to operate on at least one object." In response to the rejection of the claims as being indefinite, then, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 8 and 15 to recite that the electronic simulation information is representative of information regarding the at least one motion device, and is further representative of information regarding the at least one object when the at least one motion device is configured to operate on at least one object. Applicants respectfully submit that grammatical structure of amended Claims 1, 8 and 15 clearly defines the information of which the electronic simulation information.

Applicant respectfully submits, however, that the limitation, "the electronic simulation information is otherwise capable of being used to verify the operation of the at least one motion device produced by a set of operation information," is clear. As explained in the specification of the present application, a simulation element (e.g., operating the VERICUT software package) includes or otherwise receives electronic simulation information. In this regard, the electronic simulation information is representative of information regarding motion device(s), and is further representative of information regarding object(s) upon which the motion device(s) operate when

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the motion device(s) are configured to operate on object(s), as recited by amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 15. Conventionally, the setup component utilizes the electronic simulation information to allow a user to verify operation of motion devices, the operation being that produced by a finished set of operation information (e.g., machine control data (MCD) derived from a NC program produced from a CAM system). Pat. App. page 10, lines 6-10. That is, as recited by amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 15, the electronic simulation information is otherwise capable of being used to verify operation of the motion device(s) produced by a set of operation information.

As further recited by amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 15, process information is extracted from the electronic simulation information, and formatted into neutral process information, to utilize the electronic simulation information to also control the motion devices. The neutral process information is interpreted into operation information for controllable element(s) of the motion device(s), with the operation information thereafter being distributed to the controllable element(s) to control operation of the motion device(s).

In accordance with amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 15, the electronic simulation information enables verification of the operation of the motion device(s). More particularly, the information represented by the electronic simulation information, that being information regarding the motion device(s) and, if applicable, object(s), enables a setup component to verify operation of the motion device(s). In this regard, as recited, operation is produced by the set of operation information, the produced operation being that of the motion device(s). It should be noted that whereas the electronic simulation information conventionally enables verification of the operation of the motion device(s) produced by a set of operation information, the electronic simulation information further enables control of the motion device(s) as process information is extracted from the electronic simulation, formatted, interpreted and distributed as operation information to control the motion device(s).

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that amended Claims 1, 8 and 15, and by dependency Claims 2-7, 8-14 and 16-21, are clear, definite and do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Thus, Applicant

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respectfully submits that the rejection of Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is overcome.

B. Claims 1-21 Are Patentable over the Taylor Patent

The Taylor patent provides an expert manufacturing system that generates a manufacturing plan for producing a part in an automated manufacturing system. The expert manufacturing system generates a multipurpose manufacturing geometry definitions file (MGIDF). The MGIDF can then be used by an expert manufacturing system to generate the manufacturing plan in the form of a neutral source code file. The neutral source code can then be converted to machine-specific program code directly executable by a device controller, such as a logic controller or motion controller. The expert manufacturing system can also be used to generate a drawing of the part, as well as to simulate the manufacturing plan for producing the part.

Although the Taylor patent and the claimed invention are both directed to manufacturing systems, the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the system disclosed by the Taylor patent. More particularly, in contrast to the claimed invention of amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 15, the Taylor patent does not teach or suggest extracting process information from electronic simulation, the process information thereafter being formatted, interpreted and distributed as operation information to control motion device(s). The Taylor patent does disclose generating a simulation of a manufacturing plan. As explained by the Taylor patent, the computer simulation, "which is performed in a manner well known to those skilled in the art," "allows for verification and debugging of the manufacturing [plan]." Column 8, lines 51-55. The Taylor patent does not disclose, however, that anything is extracted from the simulation, much less process information, as is recited by the claimed invention. And as the Taylor patent does not teach or suggest extracting process information from electronic simulation information, the Taylor patent likewise does not teach or suggest formatting the extracted process information into neutral process information, interpreting the neutral process information into operation information, and distributing the operation information to control motion device(s), as also recited by amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 15.

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Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the claimed invention of amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 15, and by dependency Claims 2-7, 8-14 and 16-21, is patentably distinct from the Taylor patent. And as such, Applicant further respectfully submits that the rejection of Claims 1-21, under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Taylor patent, is overcome.

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Page 14**CONCLUSION**

In view of the amended claims and the remarks presented above, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,





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